PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

(43) Date of publication of application: 31.07.2002

(51)Int.CI.

GO2F 1/1337 GO2B 5/30

GO2F 1/13

(21)Application number: 2001-007566

(71)Applicant: NITTO DENKO CORP

(22)Date of filing:

16.01.2001

(72)Inventor: KAMIJO TAKUJI

NAKANO SHUSAKU

SHUDO SHUNSUKE NAKANISHI SADAHIRO

MOCHIZUKI SHU

(54) METHOD OF MANUFACTURING INCLINED ALIGNMENT LAYER. METHOD OF MANUFACTURING INCLINED ALIGNMENT FILM. AND INCLINED ALIGNMENT FILM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method of manufacturing an inclined alignment film of hybrid alignment which is capable of realizing an arbitrary average angle of inclination by controlling the angle of inclination of a liquid crystal compound near the boundary of an alignment film.

SOLUTION: The optical alignment film imparted with arbitrary alignment characteristics is used as the alignment film and a liquid crystal compound which exhibits homeotropic alignment on a vertically alignable substrate is used as the rod-like nematic polymerizable liquid crystal compound, by which the inclined alignment layer controlled in the angle of inclination of the liquid crystal compound near the boundary of the optical alignment film to the arbitrary angle of inclination is formed. The layer is then cured.

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

Copyright (C): 1998,2003 Japan Patent Office

(19)日本国特許庁 (JP)

(12) 公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号 特開2002-214610 (P2002-214610A)

(43)公開日 平成14年7月31日(2002.7.31)

	識別記号	FΙ			テーマコート*(参考)
1/1337		G 0 2 F	1/1337		2H049
5/30		G 0 2 B	5/30		2H088
1/13	505	G 0 2 F	1/13	505	2H090
	5/30	1/1337 5/30	1/1337 G 0 2 F 5/30 G 0 2 B	1/1337 G 0 2 F 1/1337 5/30 G 0 2 B 5/30	1/1337 G 0 2 F 1/1337 5/30 G 0 2 B 5/30

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数4 〇1. (全5 頁)

		審査請求	未請求 請求項の数4 OL (全 5 頁)
(21)出廢番号	特願2001-7566(P2001-7566)	(71) 出顧人	000003964 日東電工株式会社
(22)出廢日	平成13年1月16日(2001.1.16)	(72)発明者	大阪府茨木市下穂積1丁目1番2号 上条 卓史 大阪府茨木市下穂積1丁目1番2号 日東
		(72)発明者	電工株式会社内
			大阪府茨木市下穂積1丁目1番2号 日東 電工株式会社内
		(74)代理人	100092266 弁理士 鈴木 崇生 (外4名)

最終頁に続く

(54) 【発明の名称】 傾斜配向層の製造方法、傾斜配向フィルムの製造方法および傾斜配向フィルム

(57)【要約】

【課題】 配向膜の界面近傍における液晶化合物の傾斜角を制御することにより、任意の平均傾斜角を実現することができるハイブリッド配向の傾斜配向フィルムを製造する方法を提供すること。

【解決手段】 配向膜として任意の配向特性が付与された光配向膜を用い、かつ棒状ネマチック重合性液晶化合物として垂直配向性基板上でホメオトロピック配向を示すものを用いることにより、光配向膜の界面近傍における前記液晶化合物の傾斜角を任意の傾斜角に制御した傾斜配向層を形成し、これを硬化する。

10

40

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 配向膜上に棒状ネマチック重合性液晶化 合物を塗工することにより前記液晶化合物を傾斜配向さ せた傾斜配向層を製造する方法において、配向膜として 任意の配向特性が付与された光配向膜を用い、かつ棒状 ネマチック重合性液晶化合物として垂直配向性基板上で ホメオトロピック配向を示すものを用いることにより、 光配向膜の界面近傍における前記液晶化合物の傾斜角を 任意の傾斜角に制御した傾斜配向層を形成することを特 徴とする傾斜配向層の製造方法。

1

【請求項2】 傾斜配向層の平均傾斜角が45°以上で あることを特徴とする請求項1記載の傾斜配向層の製造 方法。

【請求項3】 請求項1または2記載の製造方法により 形成された傾斜配向層を、その配向状態を維持した状態 で紫外線硬化させ固定化することを特徴とする傾斜配向 フィルムの製造方法。

【請求項4】 請求項3記載の製造方法により得られた 傾斜配向フィルム。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、傾斜配向層の製造 方法に関する。本発明の傾斜配向層の製造方法によれ ば、棒状ネマチック重合性液晶化合物を比較的大きい平 均傾斜角に制御した傾斜配向層が得られる。また、本発 明は、前記傾斜配向層から傾斜配向フィルムを製造する 方法、さらには当該製造方法により得られる傾斜配向フ ィルムに関する。傾斜配向フィルムは単独でまたは他の フィルムと組み合わせて、位相差フィルム、視角補償フ ィルム、光学補償フィルム、楕円偏光フィルム等の光学 フィルムとして使用できる。

[0002]

【従来の技術】近年、液晶ディスプレイ(LCD)の視 角補償フィルムとして、液晶化合物をねじれ配向させた り、傾斜配向を制御したものを固定したフィルムの開発 が盛んに行われている。このような視角補償フィルムの うち、ツイスティドネマチック(TN)-LCDの視覚 補償フィルムには、光軸がフィルム面に対して傾斜して いる補償フィルム、すなわち傾斜配向フィルムが欠かせ

【0003】これまでに提供されている前記傾斜配向フ ィルムとしては、ディスコチック液晶化合物を傾斜させ たものや棒状ネマチック液晶高分子化合物を傾斜させた ものなどが知られている。これら傾斜配向フィルムは、 配向膜上に上記液晶化合物を配向させることにより得ら れており、その配向状態は、配向膜界面から空気界面に 向かって傾斜が徐々に増大するハイブリッド配向であ

【0004】上述のハイブリッド配向させた傾斜配向フ

やポリビニルアルコールなどのフィルムのラビング処理 膜が用いられている。しかし、一般に配向膜として用い るラビング処理膜の界面近傍において、液晶化合物分子 の示す傾向角はせいぜい5°と大変小さく、平均傾斜角 の大きいハイブリッド配向の傾斜配向フィルムは得られ ていない。

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明は、配向膜の界 面近傍における液晶化合物の傾斜角を制御することによ り、任意の平均傾斜角を実現したハイブリッド配向の傾 斜配向層を製造する方法を提供すること、さらにはハイ ブリッド配向の傾斜配向フィルムを製造する方法を提供 することを目的とする。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者らは前記課題を 解決すべく鋭意検討を重ねた結果、以下に示す方法によ り前記目的を達成できることを見出し本発明を完成する に至った。

【0007】すなわち、本発明は、配向膜上に棒状ネマ 20 チック重合性液晶化合物を塗工することにより前記液晶 化合物を傾斜配向させた傾斜配向層を製造する方法にお いて、配向膜として任意の配向特性が付与された光配向 膜を用い、かつ棒状ネマチック重合性液晶化合物として 垂直配向性基板上でホメオトロピック配向を示すものを 用いることにより、光配向膜の界面近傍における前記液 晶化合物の傾斜角を任意の傾斜角に制御した傾斜配向層 を形成することを特徴とする傾斜配向層の製造方法、に 関する。

【0008】本発明では、傾斜配向フィルムの形成に供 する、重合性の棒状ネマチック液晶化合物を、まず任意 の傾斜角に制御して傾斜配向層を形成する。また当該傾 斜配向層の形成にあたっては、前記重合性液晶化合物を 配向処理する配向膜として光配向膜を用いることによ り、配向膜としてラビング膜を用いた場合より配向膜の 界面近傍における傾斜角を大きい傾斜角で維持する。し かも前記重合性液晶化合物としてホメオトロピック配向 性のものを用いることにより空気界面では前記液晶化合 物がホメオトロピック配向性しやすくなり、空気界面に 向かって連続的に傾斜角を増大させたハイブリッド配向 の傾斜配向層を形成している。こうして得られる傾斜配 向層は、光配向膜に付与された配向特性により任意にそ の傾斜配向を調整することができ、光配向膜の配向特性 を適宜に変えることにより、傾斜配向層を形成する前記 重合性液晶化合物の傾斜角を任意の傾斜角に制御するこ

【0009】前記傾斜配向層の製造方法は、傾斜配向層 の平均傾斜角が45°以上である場合に特に有用であ

【0010】本発明によれば、光配向膜の界面近傍での ィルムの製造に用いる配向膜としては、主にポリイミド 50 重合性液晶化合物の傾斜角を大きい傾斜角で維持し、か つ制御することができ、ラビング処理膜上では実現困難であった約45°以上の大きな平均傾斜角でハイブリッド配向状態の傾斜配向層を得ることができる。

【0011】また、本発明は、前記製造方法により形成された傾斜配向層を、その配向状態を維持した状態で紫外線硬化させ固定化することを特徴とする傾斜配向フィルムの製造方法、に関する。さらには、本発明は当該製造方法により得られた傾斜配向フィルム、に関する。

【0012】前記任意にハイブリッド配向状態を制御した傾斜配向層を紫外線硬化させることにより、重合性液 10 晶化合物をそのままの配向状態で固定化した傾斜配向フィルムを製造することができる。

[0013]

【発明の実施の形態】本発明では、棒状ネマチック重合性液晶化合物の傾斜配向層を配向膜上で形成させるが、配向膜としては光配向膜を用いて光配向膜の界面近傍における重合性液晶化合物の傾斜角を任意の角度に制御する。

【0014】光配向膜の調製は、従来より知られている 光配向技術を採用できる。例えば、光配向技術は、紫外 線などを照射すると二量化反応や異性化反応などを引起 こすような光官能部を有する光反応性ポリマーに、偏光 された紫外線を照射し、このとき偏光の電気ベクトルに 平行な光官能部のみが反応することにより、ラビング処 理した配向膜と同じように配向規制力が付与され、液晶 化合物の分子を配向させる技術をいう。本発明に用いる 光配向技術は前記特徴を有すものであればどのようなも のでもよく、照射する紫外線が非偏光の紫外線であって も、前記光配向膜の調製が可能であれば紫外線が偏光で あるか否かは問われない。

【0015】前記光配向技術は、近年、開発が進んでおり、照射する偏光紫外線または非偏光紫外線の照射条件を調節することにより配向膜に任意の配向特性を付与できる。たとえば照射条件(照射量、照射角度等)を適宜に調整することにより光配向膜の配向特性を決定し、光配向膜の界面近傍における液晶化合物の傾斜角を任意に制御することができる。

【0016】前記光反応性ポリマーは、光官能部と高分子主鎖からなり、その光官能部が照射した偏光の電気ベクトル振動方向で規定される方向に化学結合を生じて、任意の配向特性を付与できるものであれば特に制限はない。光官能部としては、二量化反応、分解反応、異性化反応等を引起こす反応性置換基などがあげられ、たとえば、カルコン系、シンナミル系、アゾベンゼン系、クマリン系等のものを例示できる。高分子主鎖としてはポリアクリレート、ポリシロキサン、ポリメタクリレート、ポリサカライド、ポリビニルアルコール等を例示できる。光官能部は反応性ポリマーの主鎖および/または側鎖のいずれにあってもよい。

【0017】光配向膜の作製は、具体的には、光反応性 50

ポリマーを、塩化メチレン、シクロへキサノン、メチルエチルケトン、トルエン、酢酸エチル等の汎用の溶媒に溶かして希薄溶液とし、これをスピンコートあるいはバーコート等を含む公知の塗工方法により、支持基板上に塗工することにより行う。光配向膜の支持基板はガラス基板のほか、位相差のない透明なフィルム基板があげられる。スピンコートの際には溶媒は揮発し、薄膜が基板上に形成される。次いで、前記基板上の光反応性ポリマー溶液に、偏光紫外線または非偏光紫外線を照射して光

【0018】偏光紫外線または非偏光紫外線の照射の仕方は用いる光反応性ポリマーに応じて適宜選択され、照射量、照射角度等は目的とする重合性液晶化合物の傾斜配向層の傾斜角により適宜に決定する。通常、照射量は約10~1000mJ/cm²程度である。照射角度は、配向膜の法線方向と異なる方向であればよく、通常、法線方向から約5~80°の方向で目的に応じて適

配向膜とする。支持基板上に形成された光配向膜層の厚

さは約10~1000nmである。

宜選択される。

20 【0019】続いて、前記光配向膜上に棒状ネマチック 重合性液晶化合物を塗工し、傾斜配向層を形成する。棒 状ネマチック重合性液晶化合物は、重合性官能基とし て、たとえば、アクリレート基またはメタクリレート基 等を有する棒状ネマチック液晶性化合物であり、垂直配 向性基板上でホメオトロピック配向を示すものであれば 特に制限はない。

【0020】ネマチック液晶性を示す部位は特に制限されず、たとえば、ビフェニル系、フェニルベンゾエート系、フェニルシクロヘキサン系、アゾキシベンゼン系、アゾメチン系、アゾベンゼン系、フェニルピリミジン系、ジフェニルアセチレン系、ジフェニルベンゾエート系、ビシクロヘキサン系、シクロヘキシルベンゼン系、ターフェニル系等がメソゲン基となる環状単位を有するものがあげられる。これら環状単位の末端は、たとえば、シアノ基、アルキル基、アルコキシ基、ハロゲン基等の置換基を有していてもよい。また、前記メソゲン基は屈曲性を付与するスペーサ部を介して結合していてもよい。スペーサー部としては、ポリメチレン鎖、ポリオキシメチレン鎖等があげられる。スペーサー部を形成する構造単位の繰り返し数は、メソゲン部の化学構造により適宜に決定される。

【0021】また垂直配向性基板上でホメオトロピック配向を示すものとは、たとえば、表面を垂直配向処理したガラス基板上や垂直配向剤としてレシチンなどの界面活性剤層を設けた基板のような垂直配向を誘起する基板上において垂直配向(ホメオトロピック配向)するものである。このような、棒状ネマチック重合性液晶化合物としては、例えば、大日本インキ化学工業(株)製のUCL-001があげられる。

【0022】前記重合性液晶化合物は、光重合開始剤と

共に、シクロヘキサン、シクロペンタノン、メチルエチ ルケトン、トルエン、酢酸エチル、テトラヒドロフラン などの汎用溶媒に溶解した溶液を、スピンコートあるい はバーコート等を含む公知の塗工方法で、上記処理をし た光配向膜上に塗工する。溶液の濃度は、用いる液晶化 合物の溶解性や最終的に目的とする傾斜配向フィルムの 膜厚に依存するため一概には言えないが、通常3~50 重量%程度である。塗工された前記液晶化合物からなる 傾斜配向層の厚みは 0.1~10μ m程度とするのが好 ましい。重合性液晶化合物は適宜に熱処理を施して液晶 10 状態とする。なお、室温で液晶性を示す重合性液晶化合 物を用いる場合には、室温で液晶状態であるから、光配 向膜上にそのまま塗工することができ、数秒から数分放 置することにより、自発的に重合性液晶化合物が配向す る。傾斜配向層は、前記重合性液晶化合物の傾斜角が光 配向膜の配向特性に応じた任意の傾斜角に制御されてい る。これを液晶状態を示す液晶温度範囲で保持すること により、傾斜配向層を維持する。

【0023】このようにして得られたハイブリッド傾斜配向層に、紫外線を照射し、前記重合性液晶化合物を重 20合し硬化することにより、前記傾斜配向を固定化した傾斜配向フィルムとする。紫外線の照射の条件は、充分な表面硬化を達成するために、不活性気体雰囲気とするのが好ましい。通常、約80~160mW/cm²の照度を有する高圧水銀紫外線ランプが代表的に用いられる。メタルハライドUVランプおよび白熱管などの別種のランプも使用することができる。なお、紫外線照射時の液晶表面温度が液晶温度範囲内になるように、コールドミラー、水冷その他の冷却処理あるいはライン速度を早くするなどして適宜に調整する。 *30

$$\delta = (\text{n e} / (\text{n o}^2 \cdot \text{c o s}^2)$$

$$0 \cdot \text{n o} \cdot \text{d} - - - - \vec{\pi} (1)$$

の関係が成立することが知られている(T. J. Schefferら、J. Appl. Phys. 48, 178 3(1977))。このことから、 δ 、ne、no、dの値が分かっていれば、傾斜角 θ が分かる。得られた傾斜配向層について、真正面から見たときの位相差 δ 、膜厚dを測定し、また別途、液晶化合物のnoおよびneを測定しておき、これらを式(1)に代入して求めた傾斜角 θ の値を平均傾斜角 θ とした。実施例では、d=2.5 μ m、ne=1.64 δ 、no=1.509、であった。正面から見た位相差 δ と液晶化合物の傾斜角 θ の関係を図1に示す。実施例の傾斜配向層はハイブリッドの傾斜配向層である。したがって、本発明の平均傾斜角 θ とは、厚さdにわたって傾斜角を平均化した値を見積もった値である。

【0029】前記実施例では、光配向膜に照射する偏光

*【0024】こうして得られた傾斜配向フィルムは、光学フィルムとして用いられる。傾斜配向フィルムは基板上の光配向膜から剥離して用いてもよいし、剥離することなく基板上の光配向膜に形成された傾斜配向層としてそのまま用いてもよい。

[0025]

【実施例】以下に実施例をあげて本発明の一態様について説明するが、本発明は実施例に限定されないことはいうまでもない。

0 【0026】実施例

光配向膜として用いる光反応性ポリマーとして、文献(高分子論文集、vol.56-4.p234.(1999))記載のシンナモイル基を側鎖に有するメタクリル系ポリマーを用いた。該光反応性ポリマーを塩化メチレンに溶解させ(濃度20%)、これをガラス基板にスピンコートし、薄膜(50nm)を形成した。これに、偏光紫外線を斜め40°の方向から照射して光配向膜を作製した。

【0027】次いで、棒状ネマチック重合性液晶化合物(大日本インキ化学工業(株)製,UCL-001)と 光重合開始剤(チバスペシャリティケミカルズ社製のイルガキュア369)を97対3の割合(重量部)で混合し、さらに、メチルエチルケトンに溶解して30重量%の溶液に調整し、これを800rpmで前記光配向膜上にスピンコートした後、傾斜配向層を形成した。

【0028】 (液晶化合物の平均傾斜角の評価法) 異常 光屈折率 ne、常光屈折率 no の液晶化合物が厚さ d (μ m) にわたって同じ角度 θ で一様に傾斜しているとき、正面から見た位相差 δ (nm) と上記のパラメーターの間には、下記式(1):

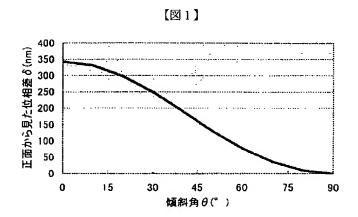
 $\theta + n e^2 \cdot s i n^2 \theta)^{1/2} - 1) \times 10$

紫外線の照射量を約 $50\sim500$ mJ/cm 2 で検討した場合に、約100mJ/cm 2 時に、配向膜界面の傾斜角が最大になり、このとき平均傾斜角約60°(正面から見た位相差約80nm)であった。

【0030】また、偏光紫外線の照射量または照射角度を変化させると、重合性液晶化合物の平均傾斜角も変化した。結果として、偏光紫外線の照射条件を変化させることで、重合性液晶化合物を任意の傾斜角度に制御できた。さらに、窒素置換した雰囲気下で傾斜配向層に紫外線を照射させることにより重合性液晶化合物を硬化して、配向状態を損なうことなく固定化した傾斜配向フィルム(光学フィルム)を得た。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】実施例の正面から見たときの位相差 δ と液晶化合物の傾斜角 θ の間の関係を示すグラフである。



フロントページの続き

(72)発明者 首藤 俊介

大阪府茨木市下穂積1丁目1番2号 日東

電工株式会社内

(72)発明者 中西 貞裕

大阪府茨木市下穂積1丁目1番2号 日東

電工株式会社内

(72)発明者 望月 周

大阪府茨木市下穂積1丁目1番2号 日東

電工株式会社内

F ターム(参考) 2HO49 BA06 BA42 BB46 BC05 BC09

2H088 EA61 GA06 HA03 KA14 LA09

MA20

2H090 HB13Y MA03 MA11 MB14

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.*** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In the approach of manufacturing the dip orientation layer to which dip orientation of said liquid crystal compound was carried out by carrying out coating of the cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound on the orientation film By using what shows a homeotropic orientation on a vertical stacking tendency substrate as a cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound, using the optical orientation film with which the orientation property of arbitration was given as orientation film The manufacture approach of the dip orientation layer characterized by forming the dip orientation layer which controlled the tilt angle of said liquid crystal compound [/ near the interface of the optical orientation film] to the tilt angle of arbitration.

[Claim 2] The manufacture approach of the dip orientation layer according to claim 1 characterized by the average tilt angle of a dip orientation layer being 45 degrees or more.

[Claim 3] The manufacture approach of the dip oriented film characterized by carrying out ultraviolet curing of the dip orientation layer formed by the manufacture approach according to claim 1 or 2, and fixing it where the orientation condition is maintained.

[Claim 4] The dip oriented film obtained by the manufacture approach according to claim 3.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the manufacture approach of a dip orientation layer. According to the manufacture approach of the dip orientation layer of this invention, the dip orientation layer which controlled the cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound to the comparatively large average tilt angle is obtained. Moreover, this invention relates to the approach of manufacturing a dip oriented film from said dip orientation layer, and the dip oriented film further obtained by the manufacture approach concerned. A dip oriented film can be used combining other independent or films as optical films, such as a phase contrast film, a viewing-angle compensation film, an optical compensation film, and a elliptically-polarized-light film.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, as a viewing-angle compensation film of a liquid crystal display (LCD), a liquid crystal compound can be twisted, orientation is carried out or development of the film which fixed what controlled dip orientation is performed briskly. The compensation film with which the optical axis inclines to a film plane, i.e., a dip oriented film, is indispensable to the vision compensation film of TSUISUTIDO nematic-among such viewing-angle compensation films (TN)-LCD. [0003] As said dip oriented film offered until now, the thing which made the disco tic liquid crystal compound incline, the thing which made the cylindrical nematic liquid crystal high molecular compound incline are known. These dip oriented film is obtained by carrying out orientation of the above-mentioned liquid crystal compound on the orientation film, and the orientation condition is hybrid orientation where dip increases gradually toward an air interface from an orientation film interface.

[0004] As orientation film used for the above-mentioned manufacture of a dip oriented film which carried out hybrid orientation, the rubbing processing film of films, such as polyimide and polyvinyl alcohol, is mainly used. However, [near the interface of the rubbing processing film generally used as orientation film], the inclination angle which a liquid crystal compound molecule shows is very as small as at most 5 degrees, and the dip oriented film of the hybrid orientation where an average tilt angle is large is not obtained.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] This invention aims at offering the approach of manufacturing the dip orientation layer of the hybrid orientation which realized the average tilt angle of arbitration, and offering the approach of manufacturing the dip oriented film of hybrid orientation further by controlling the tilt angle of a liquid crystal compound [/ near the interface of the orientation film]. [0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] this invention persons came to complete header this invention for the ability of said object to be attained by the approach shown below, as a result of repeating examination wholeheartedly that said technical problem should be solved.

[0007] Namely, this invention is set to the approach of manufacturing the dip orientation layer to which dip orientation of said liquid crystal compound was carried out by carrying out coating of the cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound on the orientation film. By using what shows a homeotropic orientation on a vertical stacking tendency substrate as a cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound, using the optical orientation film with which the orientation property of arbitration was given as orientation film It is related with the manufacture approach of the dip orientation layer characterized by forming the dip orientation layer which controlled the tilt angle of said liquid crystal compound [/ near the interface of the optical orientation film] to the tilt angle of arbitration.

[0008] The cylindrical nematic liquid crystal compound of the polymerization nature with which formation of a dip oriented film is presented is first controlled by this invention to the tilt angle of arbitration, and a dip orientation layer is formed. Moreover, a tilt angle [/ near the interface of the orientation film] is maintained with a large tilt angle from the case where the rubbing film is used as orientation film, by considering as the orientation film which carries out orientation processing of said polymerization nature liquid crystal compound in formation of the dip orientation layer concerned, and using the optical orientation film. And by the air interface, said liquid crystal compound forms the dip orientation layer of the hybrid orientation which it becomes [orientation] easy to carry out homeotropic orientation nature, and increased the tilt angle continuously toward the air interface by using the thing of homeotropic orientation nature as said polymerization nature liquid crystal compound. In this way, the dip orientation layer obtained can adjust the dip orientation to arbitration with the orientation property given to the optical orientation film, and can control the tilt angle of said polymerization nature liquid crystal compound which forms a dip orientation layer to the tilt angle of arbitration by changing the orientation property of the optical orientation film suitably.

[0009] The manufacture approach of said dip orientation layer is useful especially when the average tilt angle of a dip orientation layer is 45 degrees or more.

[0010] According to this invention, the tilt angle of the polymerization nature liquid crystal compound near the interface of the optical orientation film can be maintained and controlled by the large tilt angle, and the dip orientation layer of a hybrid orientation condition can be obtained on the rubbing processing film with the big average tilt angle of about 45 degrees or more which was difficult for implementation.

[0011] Moreover, this invention relates to the manufacture approach of the dip oriented film characterized by carrying out ultraviolet curing of the dip orientation layer formed by said manufacture approach, and fixing it where the orientation condition is maintained. Furthermore, this invention relates to the dip oriented film obtained by the manufacture approach concerned.

[0012] By carrying out ultraviolet curing of the dip orientation layer which controlled the hybrid orientation condition to said arbitration, the dip oriented film which fixed the polymerization nature liquid crystal compound in the state of orientation as it is can be manufactured.

[Embodiment of the Invention] Although the dip orientation layer of a cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound is made to form on the orientation film, the tilt angle of a polymerization nature liquid crystal compound [/ near the interface of the optical orientation film] is controlled by this invention at the include angle of arbitration, using the optical orientation film as orientation film. [0014] Preparation of the optical orientation film can adopt the optical orientation technique known conventionally. For example, if ultraviolet rays etc. are irradiated, orientation restraining force will be given like the orientation film which carried out rubbing processing when the ultraviolet rays which polarized were irradiated and only the optical organic-functions section parallel to the electric vector of polarization reacted to the photoreaction nature polymer which has the optical organic-functions section which triggers a dimerization reaction, isomerization, etc. at this time, and an optical orientation technique says the technique to which orientation of the molecule of a liquid crystal compound is carried out. Even if the ultraviolet rays which what kind of thing is sufficient as it as long as the optical orientation technique used for this invention has said description, and are irradiated are the ultraviolet rays of unpolarized light, if preparation of said optical orientation film is possible, it will not be asked whether ultraviolet rays are polarization. [0015] Development is progressing and said optical orientation technique can give the orientation property of arbitration to the orientation film in recent years by adjusting the exposure conditions of the polarization ultraviolet rays to irradiate or unpolarized light ultraviolet rays. For example, by adjusting exposure conditions (whenever [dose and illuminating-angle] etc.) suitably, the orientation property of the optical orientation film can be determined and the tilt angle of a liquid crystal compound [/ near the interface of the optical orientation film] can be controlled to arbitration.

[0016] Said photoreaction nature polymer consists of the optical organic-functions section and a giant-molecule principal chain, a chemical bond is produced in the direction specified in the electric vector oscillating direction of the polarization which the optical organic-functions section irradiated, and if the orientation property of arbitration can be given, there will be especially no limit. As the optical organic-functions section, the reactant substituent which triggers a dimerization reaction, a decomposition reaction, isomerization, etc. is raised, for example, things, such as a chalcone system, a cinnamyl system, an azobenzene system, and a coumarin system, can be illustrated. As a macromolecule principal chain, polyacrylate, a polysiloxane, polymethacrylate, poly SAKARAIDO, polyvinyl alcohol, etc. can be

illustrated. The optical organic-functions section may be in any of the principal chain of a reactant polymer, and/or a side chain.

[0017] Production of the optical orientation film melts a photoreaction nature polymer to general-purpose solvents, such as a methylene chloride, a cyclohexanone, a methyl ethyl ketone, toluene, and ethyl acetate. uses it as the dilute solution, and, specifically, performs this by carrying out coating on a support substrate by the well-known coating approach including a spin coat or a bar coat. The transparent film substrate in which the support substrate of the optical orientation film does not have phase contrast besides a glass substrate is raised. A solvent volatilizes in the case of a spin coat, and a thin film is formed on a substrate. Subsequently, polarization ultraviolet rays or unpolarized light ultraviolet rays is irradiated, and let them be the optical orientation film at the photoreaction nature polymer solution on said substrate. The thickness of the optical orientation membrane layer formed on the support substrate is about 10-1000nm. [0018] The method of an exposure of polarization ultraviolet rays or unpolarized light ultraviolet rays is suitably chosen according to the photoreaction nature polymer to be used, and the tilt angle of the dip orientation layer of the polymerization nature liquid crystal compound made into the object determines whenever [dose and illuminating-angle] etc. suitably. Usually, a dose is about ten to 10000 mJ/cm2. It is extent. Whenever [illuminating-angle] is usually suitably chosen from a normal according to the object in an about 5-80-degree direction that what is necessary is just the direction of a normal of the orientation film, and a different direction.

[0019] Then, on said optical orientation film, coating of the cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound is carried out, and a dip orientation layer is formed. A cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound is a cylindrical nematic liquid crystallinity compound which has for example, an acrylate radical or a methacrylate radical as a polymerization nature functional group, and if a homeotropic orientation is shown on a vertical stacking tendency substrate, there will be especially no limit. [0020] What has the annular unit from which especially the part that shows nematic liquid crystallinity is not restricted, for example, a KISAN system, a cyclohexylbenzene system, a terphenyl system, etc. serve as a meso gene radical to a biphenyl system, a phenyl benzoate system, a phenyl cyclohexane system, an azoxybenzene system, an azomethine system, an azobenzene system, a phenyl pyrimidine system, diphenyl acetylene series, a diphenyl benzoate system, and bicyclo one is raised. The end of these annular units may have substituents, such as a cyano group, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, and a halogen radical. Moreover, said meso gene radical may be combined through the spacer section which gives flexibility. A polymethylene chain, a polyoxymethylene chain, etc. are raised as the spacer section. The number of repeats of the structural unit which forms the spacer section is suitably determined by the chemical structure of the meso gene section.

[0021] Moreover, what shows a homeotropic orientation on a vertical stacking tendency substrate carries out vertical orientation (homeotropic orientation) of vertical orientation like a substrate in which it considered as the glass substrate top which carried out vertical orientation processing of the front face, or the vertical orientation agent, and surfactant layers, such as lecithin, were prepared on the substrate which carries out induction. As such a cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound, he is Dainippon Ink & Chemicals, for example. UCL-001 of Make are raised.

[0022] Coating of said polymerization nature liquid crystal compound is carried out on the optical orientation film which is the well-known coating approach which includes a spin coat or a bar coat for the solution which dissolved in general-purpose solvents, such as a cyclohexane, cyclopentanone, a methyl ethyl ketone, toluene, ethyl acetate, and a tetrahydrofuran, and carried out the above-mentioned processing with the photopolymerization initiator. Although the concentration of a solution does not generally have ****** in order to be dependent on the solubility of the liquid crystal compound to be used, or the thickness of a dip oriented film eventually made into the object, it is usually about 3 - 50 % of the weight. As for the thickness of the dip orientation layer which consists of said liquid crystal compound by which coating was carried out, it is desirable to be referred to as about 0.1-10 micrometers. A polymerization nature liquid crystal compound heat-treats suitably, and is made into a liquid crystal condition. In addition, in using the polymerization nature liquid crystal compound in which liquid crystallinity is shown at a room temperature, since it is in a liquid crystal condition at a room temperature, coating can be carried out as it is on the optical orientation film, and a polymerization nature liquid crystal compound carries out orientation spontaneously by leaving it several minutes from several seconds. The dip orientation layer is controlled by the tilt angle of the arbitration [tilt angle / of said polymerization nature liquid crystal compound] according to the orientation property of the optical orientation film. A dip orientation layer is maintained by holding this in the liquid crystal temperature requirement which shows a liquid crystal condition.

[0023] Thus, it considers as the dip oriented film which fixed said dip orientation in the obtained hybrid dip orientation layer by irradiating ultraviolet rays, carrying out the polymerization of said polymerization nature liquid crystal compound, and hardening it. In order to attain sufficient hard facing, as for the conditions of an exposure of ultraviolet rays, considering as an inert gas ambient atmosphere is desirable. Usually, about 80 to 160 mW/cm2 The high voltage mercury ultraviolet ray lamp which has an illuminance is used typically. The lamp of the another kind of a metal halide UV lamp, incandescence tubing, etc. can also be used. In addition, cooling processing or line speed of a cold mirror, and water cooling and others is carried out early, and is suitably adjusted so that the liquid crystal skin temperature at the time of UV irradiation may come in a liquid crystal temperature requirement.

[0024] In this way, the obtained dip oriented film is used as an optical film. From the optical orientation film on a substrate, a dip oriented film exfoliates, may be used, and it may be used as it is as a dip orientation layer formed in the optical orientation film on a substrate, without exfoliating.

[0025]

[Example] Although an example is raised to below, and this invention takes lessons from it like 1 voice and being explained to it, it cannot be overemphasized that this invention is not limited to an example. [0026] The methacrylic system polymer which has a cinnamoyl radical given in reference (macromolecule collected-works and vol.56-4.p234. (1999)) in a side chain as a photoreaction nature polymer used as example light orientation film was used. This photoreaction nature polymer was dissolved in the methylene chloride (20% of concentration), the spin coat of this was carried out to the glass substrate, and the thin film (50nm) was formed. To this, polarization ultraviolet rays were irradiated from the direction of 40 degrees of slant, and the optical orientation film was produced.

[0027] subsequently, after 97 to 3 having mix comparatively (weight section) the photopolymerization initiator (IRUGA cure 369 made from tiba speciality KEMIKARUZU) with the cylindrical nematic polymerization nature liquid crystal compound (the Dainippon Ink & Chemicals, Inc. make, UCL - 001), and having dissolve in the methyl ethyl ketone, adjust to 30% of the weight of the solution further and carry out the spin coat of this on said optical orientation film by 800rpm, the dip orientation layer form. [0028] When the liquid crystal compound of an extraordinary index ne and the Tsunemitsu refractive index no inclines uniformly at the same include angle theta over thickness d (micrometer), (Appraisal method of the average tilt angle of a liquid crystal compound) Between phase contrast delta (nm) seen from the transverse plane, and the above-mentioned parameter, it is the following type (1). : delta=(ne/(no2, cos2 theta+ne 2, and sin2 theta)1/2-1) x1000 and no-d ----- Formula (1)

It is known that ****** will be materialized (48 T. J.Scheffer et al., J.Appl.Phys. 1783 (1977)). This shows the tilt angle theta, if the value of delta, ne, no, and d is known. About the obtained dip orientation layer, the phase contrast delta and Thickness d when seeing from the front are measured, and no and ne of a liquid crystal compound are measured separately, and the value of the tilt angle theta which substituted and asked the formula (1) for these was made into the average tilt angle theta. an example -- d= 2.5 micrometers, ne=1.646, and no=1.509 -- it came out. The relation of the tilt angle theta of the phase contrast delta and the liquid crystal compound which were seen from the transverse plane is shown in drawing 1. The dip orientation layer of an example is a hybrid dip orientation layer. Therefore, the average tilt angle theta of this invention is the value which estimated the value which equalized the tilt angle over thickness d. [0029] It is the dose of the polarization ultraviolet rays which irradiate the optical orientation film in said example About 50 to 500 mJ/cm2 When it inquires, they are about 100 mJ/cm2. Sometimes the tilt angle of an orientation film interface became max, and it was about 60 degrees (about 80nm of phase contrast seen from the transverse plane) in average tilt angle at this time.

[0030] Moreover, when whenever [dose / of polarization ultraviolet rays / or illuminating-angle] was changed, the average tilt angle of a polymerization nature liquid crystal compound also changed. As a result, the polymerization nature liquid crystal compound was controllable by changing the exposure conditions of polarization ultraviolet rays to whenever [tilt-angle / of arbitration]. Furthermore, the dip oriented film (optical film) fixed without having hardened the polymerization nature liquid crystal compound and spoiling an orientation condition by making ultraviolet rays irradiate a dip orientation layer under the ambient atmosphere which carried out the nitrogen purge was obtained.

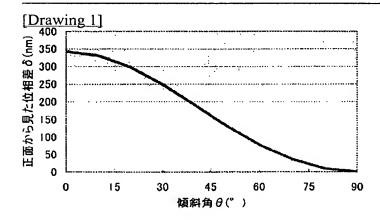
[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DRAWINGS



[Translation done.]

This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning Operations and is not part of the Official Record.

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

BLACK BORDERS

— DEMOR DORDERS
☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
□ other:

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.